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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

**INFORMATION REPORT**

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ ~~SECRET~~ (Rukhzhenskaya Obshch.)

DATE DISTR

8 November 1955

SUBJECT Research Institute V Headed by Professor Pose  
at Obninskoye

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PLACE  
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(LISTED BELOW)DATE OF  
INFO.SUPPLEMENT TO  
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Attached is  forwarded as received.Comments:

1. Throughout this report, Main Administration should read Chief Directorate.
2. With reference to paragraph 3, the First Chief Directorate was attached directly to the Council of Ministers. The Ninth Directorate has been reported as a part of the MVD. General Zverev was not chief of the First Chief Directorate. He has been reported as a deputy to General Zavenyagin in the Ninth Directorate.
3. Names in this report should be corrected as follows:

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Sveriyev should be Zverev  
Beria should be Beriya  
Kuznetsov should be Kuznetsov  
Emilyanov should be Yemelyanov  
Leipuntski should be Leypunskiy  
Blokhintsov should be Blokhintsev  
Krafchenko should be Kravchenko  
Fleron or Fleurov is probably Florov  
Kazashkovski should be Kasakovskiy  
Alekhnanin should be Alikhanyan  
Alekhnanov should be Alikhanov  
Sinovyev should be Zinovyev

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4. The Electro-Steel Plant is Elektrostal.

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TOPIC Research Institute B Headed by Professor Pose at Obninskoye

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PREPARED 10 December 1954

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. &amp; TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. The premises of Institute B previously served as a hospital. During World War II, the building were used for an orphanage for Finnish children. After the end of the war, the buildings were converted into a research institute. Construction work was completed by 1947. Passes and documents at the institute were lettered "Mekhanicheskij Zavod MVD" (phonetic spelling). Stationary used by the institute for communications with superior Soviet headquarters was headed "Object B (Russian letter B, the English equivalent of which is V). German personnel attached to the institute had their mail addressed to [redacted], Moscow.

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2. [redacted] WAC map No 167, [redacted] the pinpoint location of the institute and of the Obninskoye railroad station. Institute B was located on the Eastern bank of the Bratva River. The places of Balabanovo and Borovsk were known [redacted]

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3. Institute B was directly assigned to the 9th Main Administration in Moscow, which was subordinate or attached to the 1st Main Administration headed by General Sveriyev. The 1st Main Administration was subordinate to the 1st Department of the Ministry of the Interior (1st Upravleniya Ministerstvo Vnutro Delo MVD) (phonetic spelling) which was headed by Deputy Minister Zaveriyagin, who, in turn, was responsible to the late Beria. General Sveriyev was a technical officer and not a scientist. His deputy, Colonel Kusnetsov, was in charge of the administration of the institute. He also controlled all construction activities and looked after the welfare of the German personnel. Kusnetsov also maintained connection between Professor Pose and Zaveriyagin, Supreme MVD representative at the

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Institute was Colonel Kalinin, who had interrogated the German scientists and technicians detained at PW Camp 27/1 and subsequently assigned them to the various research institutes. Colonel Putsov and Senior Lieutenant Kenin were MVD officers attached to the 9th Main Administration. During the reported period, Emilyanov, allegedly a member of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, was the leading scientist of this main administration. Emilyanov

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Twice a year, General Sveriyev would inspect Institute B in the company of Professors Leipuntski and Krasin and Professor Pose.

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In early 1950, the 9th Main Administration was allegedly dissolved. After that date, Professor Leipuntski never came to the institute and Professor Blokhintsov became the Soviet scientific manager of the installation, which was then, allegedly, assigned to the 1st Main Administration. While previously technical officers were the superiors of the German personnel at the institute, Soviet scientists then took over. At the 1st Main Administration, the Soviet scientist responsible for Institute B was a man who had previously headed a laboratory at one of the "Southern Installations"

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#### 4. Personnel data:

Professor Heinz Pose. Pose was the German chief of the institute.

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7. Dr. Carl-Friedrich Weiss. Weiss was chief of the control laboratory.

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8. Dr. Werner Czulius. Czulius was chief of the "Moderator Laboratory"

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9. Dr. Hans Keppel. Keppel was chief of the chemical laboratory.

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11. Dr. Hermann (fnu). Hermann was chief of the laboratory in which experiments were made with the acceleration of electrons.

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12. Dr. Ernst Rexer. Rexer, a physicist, was chief of the metallurgical laboratory.

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13. Dr. Westmeier (fnu). Westmeier was chief of the measuring laboratory.

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14. Dr. Helmut Scheffers. Scheffers was chief of the Mathematical-Physical Department.

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15. Dr. Hans Krueger. Krueger, a physicist, was chief of the photographic laboratory.

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16. Diplom Ingenieur Fritz Schmidt. Schmidt developed a so-called 10-fold reducer ("10-fach Untersetzer") which was connected to a measuring device.

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Soviet Scientists attached to Installation B.

17. Professor Leipuntski (fnu). Leipuntski lived and worked in Moscow. He controlled all research projects handled by the 9th Administration.

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18. Professor Blokhintsov. Blokhintsov took over the scientific management of Institute B after Leipuntski left. He

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20. Professor Alekhanin (fnu) and Professor Alekhanov (fnu).

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21. Dr. Kazashkovski (fnu). Kazashkovski was a theoretical physicist. [redacted]

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22. Zinovyev (fnu). Zinovyev's laboratory was in room 39. [redacted]

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23. The Soviet assistants working at Institute B came from universities in Kracow, Leningrad and Moscow. The German scientists at the institute believed that they were very industrious young men who were eager to pick up knowledge. They did not develop, however, an initiative of their own. At the institute, these students were given their first chance to conduct experiments. Their scientific training was considered one-sided and inadequate by the Germans.

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24. During the summer of 1949, a train of freight cars loaded with crates arrived at Institute B. The crates allegedly contained a large separating magnet (Trennmagnet). This magnet was said to have been 2.4 meters long, 1.2 meters wide and 1 meter high. These dimensions possibly refer to only a component part of this magnet. The magnet was set up immediately. The completion date for the experiment involved was 31 December 1949. Professor Leipuntski, who was charged with the experiment, was then given another 2 or 3 months in which to complete his work, which reportedly ended in failure. Professor Leipuntski was replaced by Professor Blokhintsov in early 1950.

25. In early 1950, 2 kg of heavy water were ordered for the institute. The heavy water was needed in Dr. Keppel's laboratory, but Dr. Weiss was also interested in it. The heavy water was procured by Professor Blokhintsov in about the spring of 1950. [redacted] thorium played a prominent role in the experimental work at Institute B. In the workshop of the institute, hundreds of porcelain cores were provided with wire windings. No details were available.

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26. During the first years of the existence of Institute B, the German personnel of the installation could move freely in the vicinity of the institute. On 22 June 1948 (?), the construction of a fence around the institute area was completed and the Germans working there could leave this area only under Soviet escort. [redacted]

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- c. The Institute headed by Professor Hertz; Dr. Steenbeck (fnu) of this institute was awarded a 3d Class Stalin Prize.
- d. The Institute headed by Professor Ardenne (fnu); this institute and Professor Hertz's institute were located in the vicinity of Sukhumi.
- e. Installation at Uralopinsk. Engineer Friedrich Schmitz came from this installation to Institute B. Dr. Hohorst (fnu) worked as a zoologist at this installation after he had been assigned to Professor Hertz and two other installations in the Ural Mts. Schmitz and Dr. Hohorst were transferred to the Illinskaya camp in August 1950.
- f. An installation (name unknown) where politically unreliable Soviets worked.
- g. Electro-Steel Plant, headed by Dr. Riehl.

Comment. Pose and his assistants W. Czulius and W. Herrmann previously worked at the Gottow Test Institute of the former German Army Ordnance Office, where atomic research work was conducted. A report on the activities of this test institute was given in the publication "Naturforschung und Medizin in Deutschland 1939 - 1946" (Fiat Review of German Science) "Nuclear Physics and Cosmic Radiation, Part II", page 150. From the rather vague information contained in the present report, it is inferred that the institute at Obninskoye conducted work similar to that done at Gottow.

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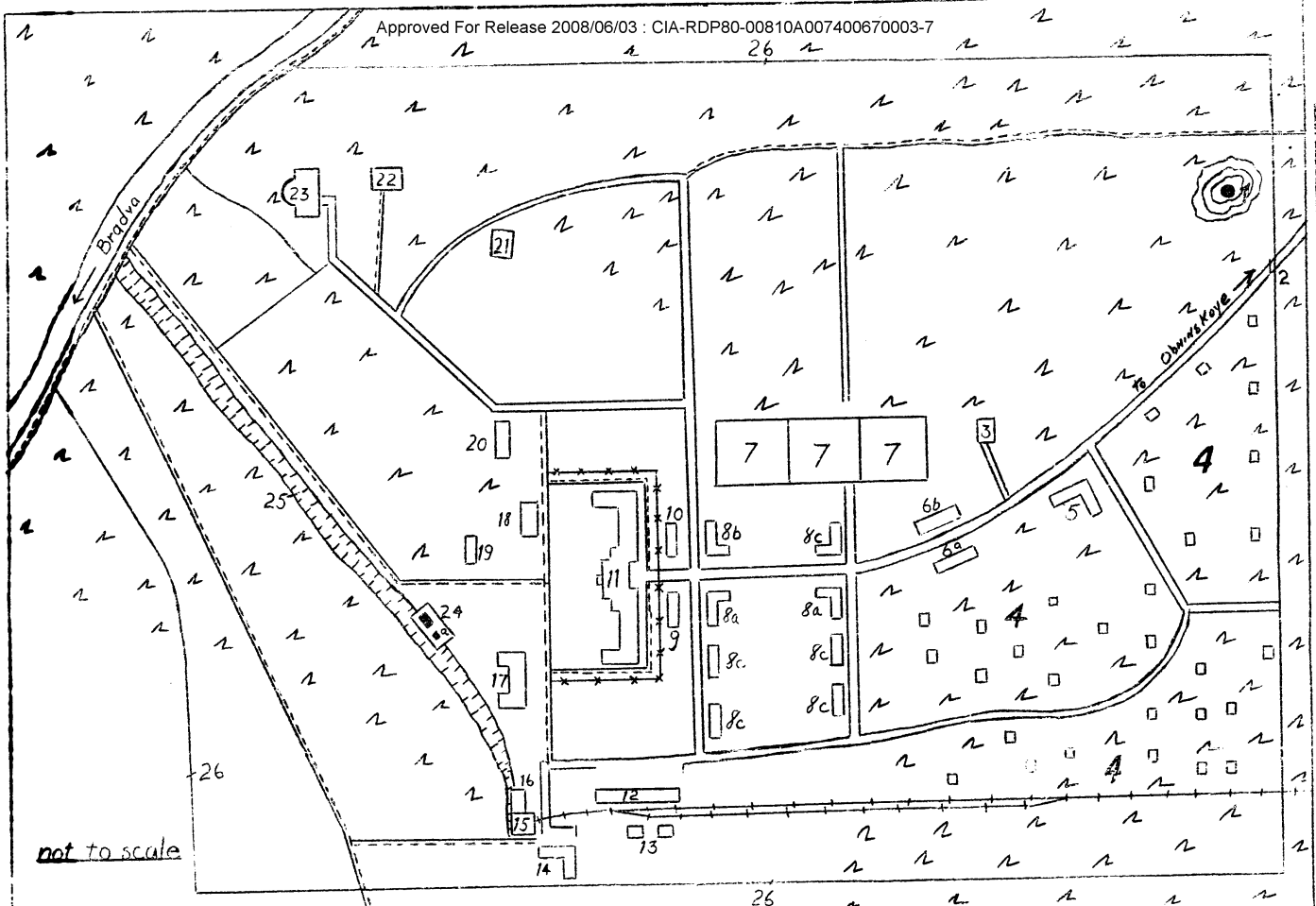
Sketch No. 1

## Legend.

- 1 Water tower on hill, about 35 meters high.
- 2 Gate and road block, check point. The Obninskoye railroad station was about 800 meters distant from this point.
- 3 Club house.
- 4 Single-family log houses for Soviets.
- 5 School for Soviet and German children.
- 6a and 6b Houses for top-level Soviet and German scientists.
- 7 Athletic field and tennis courts.
- 8a through 8c Houses for Germans and Soviets.
- 9 Restaurant, bakery, and storage facilities.
- 10 Soviet administration building
- 11 Main institute building (Mekhanicheskiy Zavod MVD).
- 12 Storage of materials.
- 13 Storage of chemicals.
- 14 Garage and motor vehicle shop. An estimated ten sedans, six to eight trucks, and three buses were kept there.
- 15 Power station.
- 16 Old power station, steam power plant, coal firing. No transmission line was available. Electric power was to be eventually furnished from the Rybinsk reservoir.
- 17 Workshop equipped with lathes, automatic machines, and precision mechanic tools. About 20 persons worked at the shop.
- 18 New building, admittance to Soviets only. The building measured 15 x 15 x 16 meters and was of concrete; the structure which houses a high voltage plant was a copy of a similar installation at the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute at Dahlen.
- 19 Production of oxygen.
- 20 Wooden house occupied by Colonel Petr Ivanovich Sakhanov, later by Dr. Karl-Friedrich Weiss-Joachim.
- 21 Old Diesel station, emergency power supply.
- 22 Villa
- 23 Guest house for Soviets. Professor Max Volmer and his wife were once accommodated there.
- 24 Dr. Weiss' laboratory located in a depression.
- 25 Old log house, formerly laboratory used by Dr. Weiss. It was dismantled because it had been exposed to radioactivity.
- 26 Board fence.

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Sketch No. 1: Layout of Institute V

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Sketch No. 2

## Legend.

## A Ground Floor

- 1 Main laboratory headed by Krasin.
- 2 Dr. Hermann's laboratory (acceleration of electrons).
- 3 Main laboratory headed by Dr. Ernst Rexer.
- 4 Dr. Rexer's laboratory, location of five-ton press.
- 5 Room housing a tensile testing machine and material testing machines.
- 6 Photographic laboratory headed by Dr. Westmeier.
- 7 Glass-blowing department headed by Walter. Component parts for vacuum plants, pumps, and connections were manufactured there. Types of glass used included lead glass, soda glass, non-soda glass, and Thuringian glass. In 1950, another glass-blowing shop was put into operation.
- 8 through 11 Workshops used by Dr. Weiss.
- 12 Control laboratory of Dr. Werner Czulius.
- 13 Laboratory of Soviet assistant of Professor Pose. Gas chamber.
- 13a Office of Professor Pose's Soviet assistant.
- 14 Precision mechanics workshop used by Professor Pose.
- 15 Transformer station.
- 16 Storage of materials.
- 16a Office of Werner Pose.
- 17 Soviet office.
- 18 Stock room for storage batteries.
- 19 Storage of uranium.
- 20 Spectroscopic laboratory headed by Dr. Krueger.
- 21 Photographic laboratory used for spectrum analysis.
- 22 Chemical laboratory of Dr. Keppel.
- 23 and 24 Laboratories of Dr. Keppel.
- 25 Office of Dr. Keppel.
- 26 Laboratory with chemical scales and microbalances used by Dr. Keppel.
- 27 Room equipped with optical measuring devices.
- 28 Photographic laboratory of Dr. Keppel.
- 29 Storage of apparatus.
- 30 Storage of chemical auxiliary equipment.
- 31 Distillation department, regeneration of acids.
- 32 Storage of chemicals.

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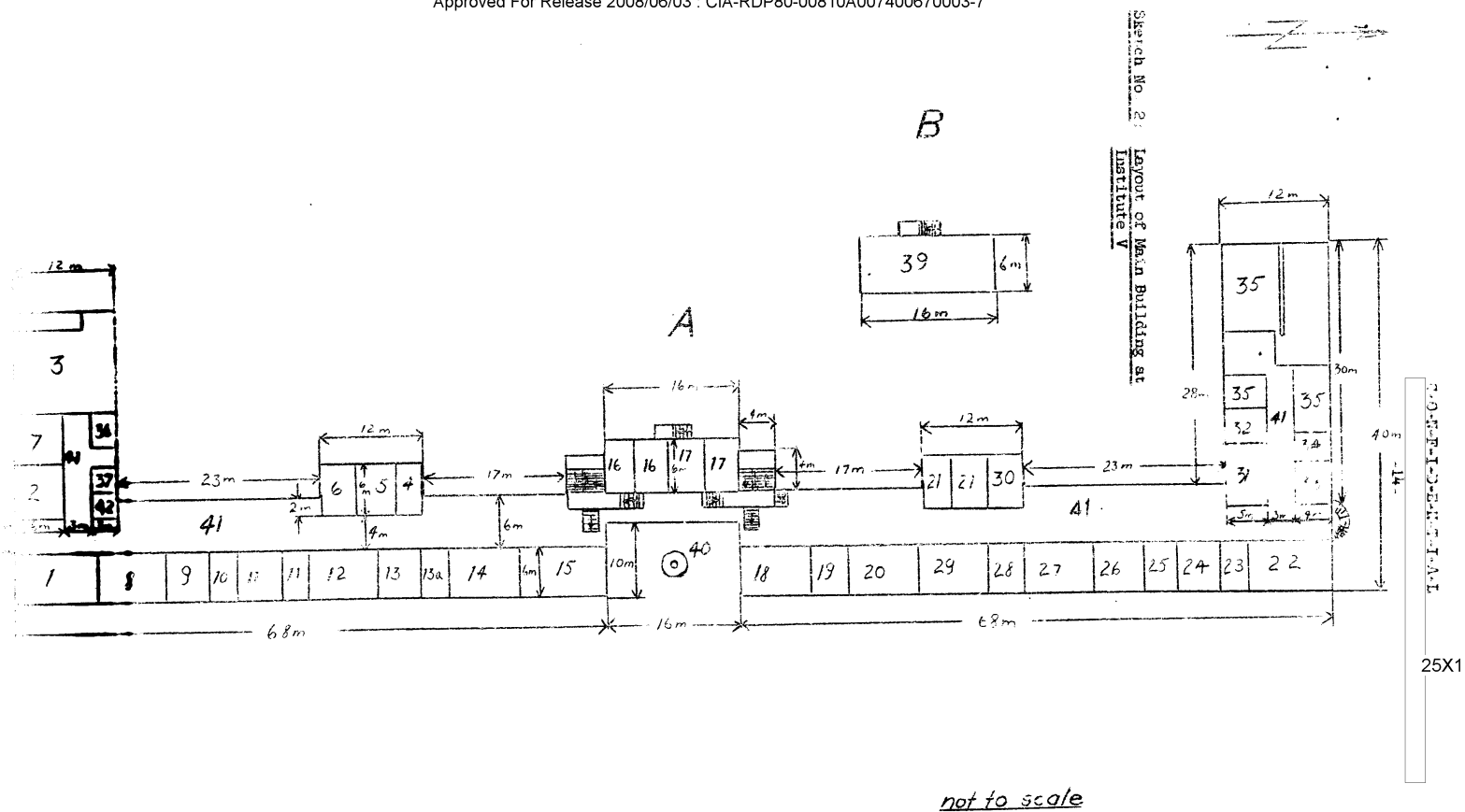
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- 33 33 Storage of acids.
- 34 Toilets.
- 35 Laboratories of Professor Leypunskiy, location of separating magnet (Trennmagnet).
- 36 Laboratory of Professor Pose.
- 37 Photographic Laboratory of Professor Pose.
- 38 Storage of uranium.
- 39 (See B)
- 40 Fountain.
- 41 Corridors.
- 42 Toilets.
- B Basement (located below rooms 16 and 17)
  - 39 Laboratory used by Zinovyev.

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Sketch No. 3

## Legend:

- 51 Office of Professor Pose
- 52 Anteroom, work place for Christine Joachim, secretary to Professor Pose, and for the female secretary to Professor Blokhintsev.
- 53 Krasin's office.
- 54 Blokhintsev's office.
- 55 Mathematics department headed by Professor Blokhintsev. Work places for six Soviet assistants.
- 56 Office of Dr. Helmut Scheffers.
- 57 Office of Frau Dr. Helene Kuelz.
- 58 Office of mathematician Burkhardt.
- 59 and Rooms housing optical material testing devices used by Dr. Rexer.
- 59a
- 60 Test laboratory of Dr. Czulius.
- 61 Laboratory of Dr. Czulius.
- 61a Office of Dr. Czulius.
- 62 Workshop of engineer Fritz Schmidt.
- 63 Laboratory of Dr. Czulius.
- 64 Office of Dr. Weiss.
- 65 Storage room used by Dr. Czulius.
- 66 Photographic laboratory used by Dr. Czulius.
- 67 Institute library (librarian - Britta Weidemann).
- 68 Photographic laboratory under Soviet management.
- 69 High frequency laboratory headed by chief engineer von Dertzen.
- 70 High frequency laboratory headed by Dr. Ernst Busse.
- 71 Laboratories used by Professor Alikhanyan and Alikhanov.
- 72 Dr. Kasakovskiy.

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Sketch No. 4

Legend:

- 1 Measuring laboratory equipped with apparatus fitted with scales and mirror instruments (Suliman-type devices).
- 2 Dr. Weiss' office.
- 3 Corridor.
- 4 Soviet designs office.

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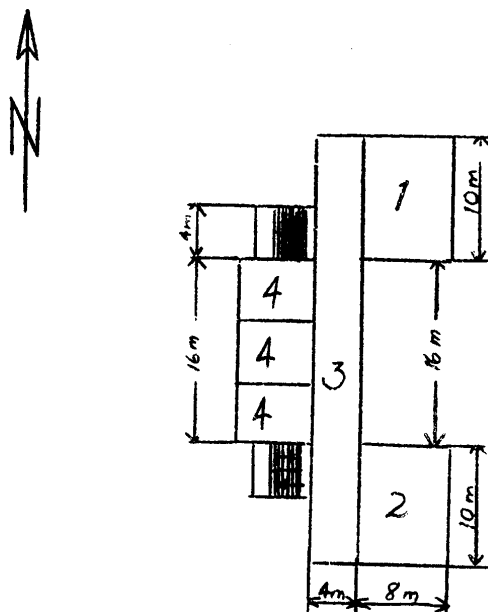
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Sketch No. 4: Detailed Sketch of Item 24 of page 10 (Laboratory of Dr. Weiss)



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Sketch No. 5

Legend:

- 1 Podmoskovnaya railroad station.
- 2 Serebryany Bor railroad station.
- 3 Highway to Leningrad.
- 4 Building in which Professor Volmer worked.
- 5 Guest house.
- 6 Stables.

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

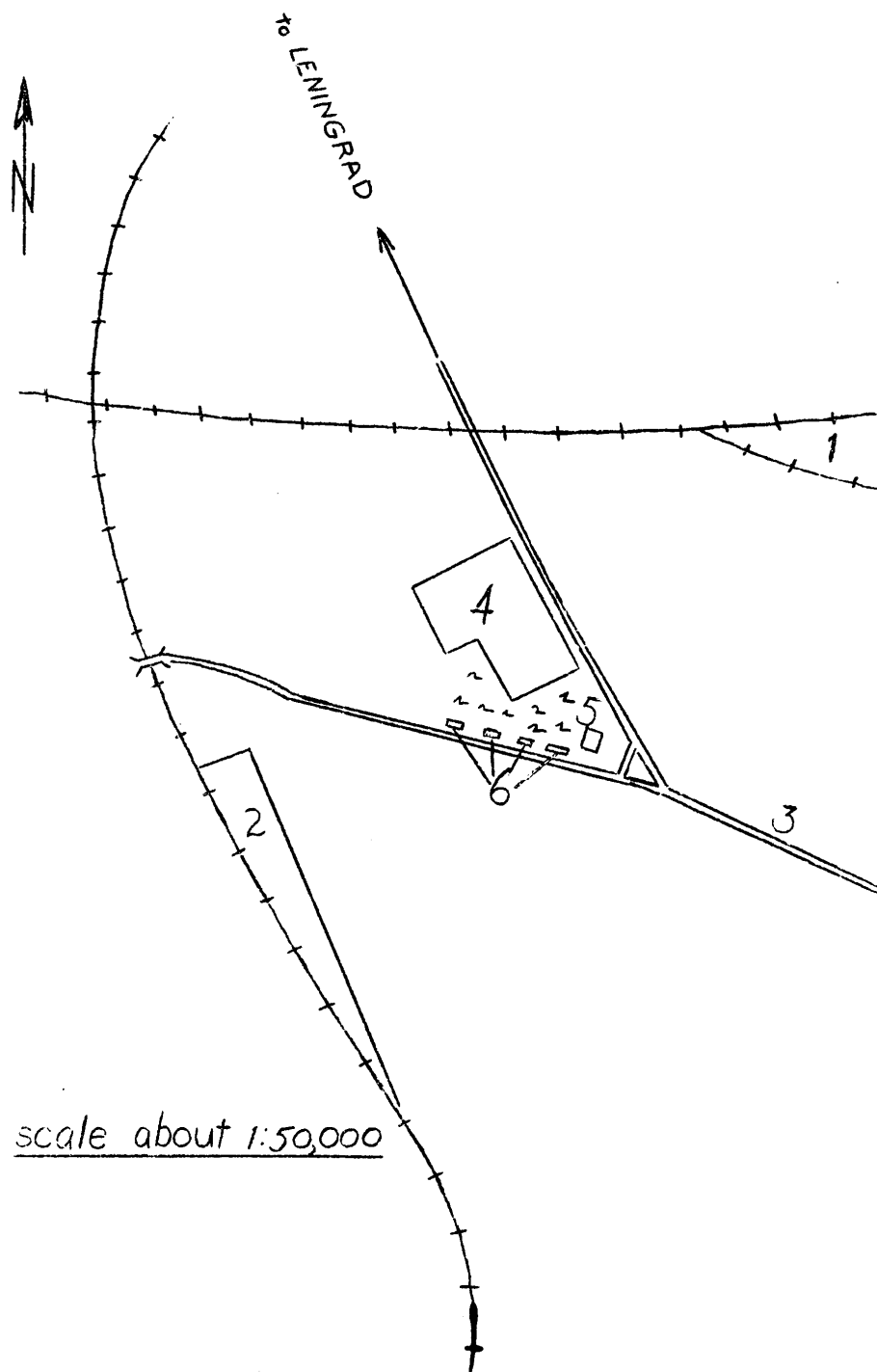
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Sketch No. 5: Location of Institute in Moscow Headed by Professor Vollmer



scale about 1:50,000

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Sketch No. 6

## Legend:

- 1 Professor Heinz Pose, German manager.
- 2 Soviet institute management:  
Professor Leypunskiy, until 1950.  
Professor Blokhintsev and Captain Krasin, after 1950.
- 3 Soviet administration:  
Colonel Petr Ivanovich Sakhanov.  
a Procurement, Captain Smirnov and Senior Lieutenant Melnikov  
b Political department.  
c Classified material.  
d Reproduction office.
- 4 Soviet assistant to Professor Pose.
- 5 Precision mechanic shop of Professor Pose.  
Foreman Hartmann.  
Laboratory worker Karl Wacker.  
Apprentice Guenther Hartmann (son of the foreman).
- 6 Professor Pose's secretariat:  
Christine Joachim and one Soviet female secretary.
- 7 Soviet mathematical department (six assistants).
- 8 Library.  
Britta Wiedemann, and one Soviet assistant librarian  
30,000 to 50,000 volumes.
- 9 Materials Office:  
Werner Pose
- 10 German departments and laboratories:  
a Control laboratory headed by Dr. Karl Friedrich Weiss-Joachim, one Soviet assistant called Vadevits (phonetic spelling).  
b Moderator laboratory:  
Dr. Werner Czilius  
Boehme, a German student  
Shorin, a Soviet assistant  
c Chemical laboratory:  
Dr. chem. Hans Keppel  
Engelhardt, a German student  
Manfred Zacher, assistant  
d Metallurgical laboratory:  
Dr. Ernst Rexer  
Since 1950 also Dr. Herold  
**Ernst Sachwits, chief engineer**  
**Thomas, engineer**  
Hugo Meiners, welder

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## e Laboratory, acceleration of electrons:

Dr. Hermann

## f Photographic and measuring laboratory:

Dr. Westmeyer (or Westermeyer)

Laboratory worker Gustav Wausch-Kuhn

Assistant Hans Hartmann

## g Photographic laboratory

Dr. Hans Krueger

## 11 Soviet Laboratories and departments:

## a Separating magnet

Professor Leypunskiy

Dr. Kasakovskiy

Fettison

Rakhimov

Spiegel

Gols, and several other Soviet technicians

## b Laboratory

Captain Krasin

## c Metallurgical laboratory

Zinovyev

## 12 German departments

## a High frequency laboratory

Chief engineer Hans Juergen von Dertzen. Von Dertzen was previously employed with the Brown & Boveri firm. He mainly worked for the Soviet group of scientists.

## b Laboratory

Dr. Ernst Busse who previously was said to have been a tube expert of the Philips radio engineering firm.

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## c Mathematical-physical department

Dr. Helmut Scheffers

Frau Dr. Helene Kuelz

Wolfgang Burkhardt, a student

Dipl. phys. M. Moeller

## 13 Soviet laboratory for cosmic ray radiation:

Professor Alikhanyan

Professor Alikhanov

a number of Soviet technicians and assistants

## 14 Auxiliary installations

## a Designs office, name of Soviet chief unknown

German chief Guenther Ullmann

draftsmen Horst Novack and Haupt, the latter a Soviet two Soviet draftsmen

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## b Workshop

Foreman W. Zacher

engineer Schmidt

Bernhard Joachim, a student

Hofmann

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